

<h1>Community Companion</h1> <p>Quaker House: 3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati, OH</p>	<p><u>Volume 20, Issue 1,</u> <u>January, 2014</u> Caretakers: Alan Wright and Grace Conrad Childcare: Emily Spring, Margaret Arney</p>	
<p>(513) 861-4353 www.communityfriendsmeeting.com</p>	<p>Submissions for the February newsletter due by: Monday, January 28, 2014 to Jean</p>	
<p>Presiding Clerk: Kate Anthony Assistant Clerk: Frank Huss Recording Clerk: Paul Buckley Treasurer: Lynn Funck</p>	<p>Ministry and Counsel: Eileen Bagus Erin Bagus Lisa Cayard (clerk) Frank Huss Deborah Jordan Tim Leonard Sunny Rhein (SA) (SA) is special assignment</p>	<p>https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/community-friends-meeting Newsletter: Deborah Jordan Email: djordan@fuse.net Editor & photographer Jean Crocker-Lakness j.crockerlakness@gmail.com</p>

Calendar

All events and meetings take place at the Meeting House unless otherwise noted.

Singing 9:45 am

Meeting for Worship 10 am

Second Hour or Carry in Potluck @ 11:40 am

Jan. 5	Carry in Meal after Meeting for Worship: FUN Committee appreciates and encourages locally grown food when possible.
Jan. 9	Tender Mercies dinner - 5pm, Thursday, Jan. 9th Contact David Funck to help
Jan. 12	Second hour: Meeting for worship with attention to business
Jan. 19	Second Hour: Rachel Ernst Stahlhut on “Shame: Spirit, Self, and Community”
Jan. 26	Second Hour: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson on “My Evolving Ministry”

In This Issue:

Pages 2	Summary of minutes from meeting for business Dec. 8
Page 3	Holiday Cookie baking at the Meeting House, request access to the “cloud”
Page 4	FGC the Gathering- it’s not too early to begin planning to attend
Page 5	Olney Friends Protects Pastures for Posterity vs. fracking
Page 5-6	Photos from the Children’s Christmas Play
Page 7	Photos from the Yule Ritual

First Query from OVYM Book of Discipline, 1978: Silent Worship; Ministry

Do you attend meeting for worship in a spirit of willing service and of prayerful desire to make them profitable to each individual and to the assembled group? Are you prepared for worship expecting that your worship will be a source of strength and guidance? Are you careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by late arrival? Do you practice a waiting spiritual worship and a free and open ministry under Divine guidance?

Note: Religious Development Committee is seeking teachers for 2 different upcoming sessions. Contact Lisa Cayard

December 8, 2013 Business Meeting Summary prepared by Paul Buckley, Recording Clerk

The meeting opened with twenty Friends present.

The treasurer reported that contributions to the meeting are still about \$5000 behind budget. Some expenses are also down relative to budget, but not enough to offset the shortfall in income. In the next month, we will be paying more than \$5000 in the donations to other organizations.

Contributions to the meeting are needed to balance our budget.

We are behind schedule in drafting a budget for 2104. Committee clerks are asked to let the treasurer know what they need to do their work in the coming year as soon as possible.

Committee clerks were also reminded that year end reports will be needed so that the State of the Meeting Report can be compiled. These should be sent to the clerk of Ministry & Counsel Committee by the end of January.

The new website hosted on the FGC Quaker Cloud was demonstrated by the Web Clerk.

Everything of value from our old website has been ported over and additional information has been added (e.g., electronic copies of the *Community Companion* from 2006 to the present).

For privacy, some information on the website (minutes, photo galleries, etc.) only be visible to the meeting's members and attenders and thus require signing in with a password. When items are posted they will be designated as either public or private. Friends are encouraged to create accounts so they will be able to view everything posted. If any difficulties are encountered, contact the web clerk.

Currently, only the web clerk can contribute material to the News, Events and Resources sections. Anyone with an account can post to the Community section. Soon, however, the contributor role will be granted to others in the meeting so the task of maintaining the site is shared by more people.

The Adult Religious Education Committee's proposed a statement of purpose was accepted.

The statement, as edited last month, is:

“The purpose of the Adult Religious Education Committee is to identify the religious and spiritual education needs of Community Friends Meeting, and to plan Second Hour or other events to meet those needs. The committee also coordinates the calendar of meeting second hour events initiated by meeting committees or members.”

The Ministry & Counsel Committee met on November 25 to consider ways to provide support to the Presiding Clerk in maintaining a worshipful process during meetings for business. The committee heard reports from ministry support committees and responded to a request for a clearness and support committee, and discussed the pastoral care needs in the Meeting.

The House & Grounds Committee plans to purchase a new mower by spring. They also expressed appreciation to the caretakers for shoveling the meetinghouse drive by hand.

Friends were reminded to use the meeting calendar if they wish to have heat when they use the meetinghouse.

The business meeting closed with a period of worship.

The baking of the holiday cookies on Saturday, Dec. 21 photo by Elyse Benke

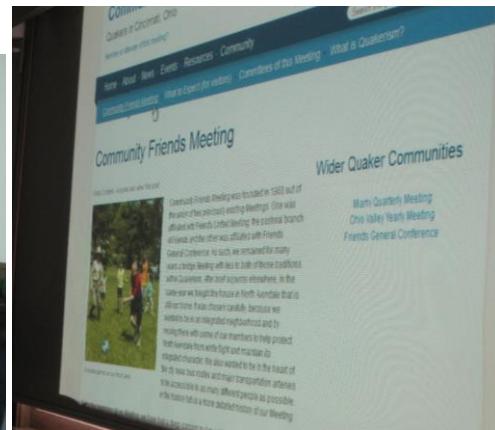
This is one of the cookies that Pam & Jennifer made - Pam said that Jennifer decorated this one -



<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/community-friends-meeting>

As noted in the minutes, we have a new web site. The new website is hosted on the FGC Quaker Cloud. To sign up for getting into the member only pages of the new Meeting web site scroll down the new web page and on the right side you will see Member and Attenders. Click on "request access". Many things are not open to the public, such as the Christmas Play photos, but anyone attending Community can sign up for the right to sign into those pages. Of course, right now you can still use the old address, and it will redirect you to the cloud address.

If you have any questions about the meeting's new web page or access, please let David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson know. His email address is davidpc@gmail.com.



David demonstrating the new web site at the December Meeting for Business

FGC: The Gathering



Taste the vibrancy and the variety that is available by immersing yourself in this community of Friends for a week. June 29-July 5, 2014.

2014 Theme: Let Love Be the First Motion

Registration opens April 2, 2014. Register early to maximize access to workshops and financial aid.

LOCATION: CALU (California University of Pennsylvania) is located on 294 acres in the borough of California, Pa., just 35 miles south of Pittsburgh on the banks of the Monongahela River. This location is about 281 miles from the Meeting House and will take a little less than 5 hours to drive

The week of the Gathering is packed with programs and events including:

- Small group morning workshops
- Many worship opportunities
- Evening plenaries
- Programs for children and teens
- Programs for young adults
- Daily Bible half-hour, presentations by Quaker organizations, and more!
- Events organized by Gathering participants. Plan your own or read the daily bulletins to find others with common interests.

Olney Friends Protects Pastures for Posterity - a Plea for Partners

Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio decided not to lease rights to potentially rich oil and gas reserves under its land for hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." In so doing, the school aligned itself with a tradition of environmental stewardship echoed in many Friends organizations. It also declined hundreds of thousands of dollars in guaranteed compensation. Still, the school's mission will flourish with financial support from Friends. .

.. Quaker testimonies of community, simplicity, service and stewardship - all intimately connected - shone vibrantly in this process (of discerning how to advance the school's mission while balancing Quaker principles with financial health). In making the decision to forego the riches of fracking and to attempt to save the riches of the earth literally beneath the school and community, Olney Friends School positioned itself as a leader in environmental stewardship.

John Woolman could not foresee the scale and complexity of the world's economies or ecologies, but he set the stage for a tradition of stewardship more than two centuries ago. The school reaches out to Friends now to help it move forward in the Light, and to transform its convictions into opportunities to strengthen the school's future. (from *Protecting Pastures for Posterity* pamphlet - Check out www.olneyfriends.org)

Contributions can be sent to:

Olney Friends School
61830 Sandy Ridge Rd.
Barnesville, OH 43713

Children's Christmas Play on Sunday December 15th

Photos taken by Eugenia Mills at the dress rehearsal

Narrated and directed by Kaitlyn Funk with assistance from Lynn and Adam Funck and Hannah Branson.



Joseph (Reid Pfaltzgraff-Carlson) and Mary (Charlotte Dean). The three wise people: Elana Branson, Morgan Ganance, and Toby Dean

Photos by Eugenia Mills of the rehearsal for the children's Christmas Play



Cecelia and Elana Branson as shepherds.



On the left
Coen &
Aubrey (Lisa
Cayard's
grandchildren)
as sheep



Bing Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
as the one of the 3 wise
people.
Bing as the donkey that
carried Mary

Yule Ritual

On December 22, a Yule ritual based on pagan customs of honoring the longest night of the year and celebrating the return of the light was held at the Meeting. Kate Anthony and Jim Crocker-Lakness put some work into preparing a ritual that people of all persuasions found spiritual and renewing. We were fortunate with the weather and the ritual was held outside followed by fellowship afterwards in the Meeting House.



South alter



East Alter



North Alter



West Alter



Halie Crocker (Jim's daughter) with her friend Marc



Sue Brungs and Deborah Jordan having a good laugh



Far left: Halie, Marc, Marjorie Isaacs, Shannon Isaacs
 Near left: Jim Crocker-Lakness, John Howland from Cincinnati Friends, and Bill Cahalan



To the left: Conan Crocker (Jim's eldest son), Jim C-L, daughter Halie talking with Alison Crocker (Conan's wife)
 Conan and Halie grew up in the Meeting and had a good look around to see if things were still the same as they remembered them-(they were).
 Not pictured are Conan's 3 children: Camon, Dasha, and Rya who all seemed to appreciate the Yule celebration